

The largest river in the eastern part of the United States is the Ohio, the second largest tributary of the Mississippi. The uttermost fountain of this river is in Pocahontas County, near the foot of Mace Know, one of the very highest peaks in the central Appalachian Range. The country was discovered by degrees, and the pioneers were puzzled by the careless manner in which a set of mountains were thrown around. They had gotten used to orderly mountains that lay in parallel rows from the north east to the south west, ridged up like a potato patch. But when they crossed the Allegheny they found all sorts of spurs, dips and angles, and the mountains where there was any direction predominating seemed to lie from the south east or northwest, or at right angles with the tame mountains on the white man's side. This condition was peculiar to West Virginia, and the geologists tell us that the reason was that long before the continent of America reared itself above the troubled waters, that a little island, West Virginia, endured the storms of winter and the heat of summer for some few million of years. A scientist will concede a million of years ~~as~~ more willingly than a school marm will concede five minutes for recess. So West Virginia got eroded and made mountains that way, and got all its nice, coal, ~~and~~ oil, and gas ready for the spenders.

These strange mountains were bigger than the others. And the long years of erosion had made the land rich, and the forests overawed the pioneer, and he went but a little way fearfully, and settled because the land was rich. But they did get the rivers mixed up. So they called the big river the Ohio to the forks at Pittsburgh, and then they named it the Monongahela, to another forks, and then called it the Tygarts Valley River to its uttermost fountain, and there it abutted on another river so close that a single step takes you from one to the other, and that is the Cheat River that joins with the Monongahela at Point Marion, and being the most eastern branch of the westward flowing river and fully as long, or rather reaching farther than the Tygarts Valley, it might be considered the uttermost fountain for it goes the Tygarts River a few steps, or at least one step, or one span, farther from the Mississippi.

Cheat river loses its identity in a way after it gets ~~to~~ in the tangle of mountains and divides up into so called forks, but the Shavers Fork is so much longer and greater that it overcomes the others by many miles.

~~Shavers~~ Shavers Fork is one of the show streams of the state and it more spruce on it and all that the word implies than any other West Virginia stream. It was also the stream that drains the top of the world being set high above its sister the Greenbrier on one side and Tygarts Valley River on the other. The Staunton & Parkersburg Turnpike crosses all three rivers in twenty miles. At Durbin the Greenbrier is crossed at 3000 feet; ~~Shavers~~ Shavers Fork is crossed at 3600 feet; and Tygarts Valley river is crossed at 2200 feet.

The other day I got to figuring out way that Shavers Fork got its name. Also Shavers Mountain. And Shavers Run. I knew in a general way that the Shaver that they were named for was the ancestor of my friend, National Chairman C. L. Shaver, of Fairmont, whose maxim is ~~silence~~ silence. But I was not able to go back into the dim and distant past and visualize the life and fate of the Shaver whose name will

to Clarksburg to prove their settlement claims and were returning. When they reached the Tygarts Valley river, perhaps near Philippi, they ran into a great body of Indians, and a battle ensued. John Manear, Daniel Cameron, and a man by the name of Cooper, were killed and the others escaped back to Clarksburg, and ~~#####~~ brought word of the early appearance of the Indians.

It afterwards appeared that the Indian army moved towards Parsons, Tucker County, and were discovered by James Brown and Stephen Radoliff. It is reasonable conjecture that these men were scouts on the old War Road, now called the Seneca Trail. Withers says that this caused the Indians to go over Leading Creek into the Tygarts Valley where they destroyed the whole settlement. What is more reasonable to suppose is that they struck the War Path and moved south to the ~~#####~~ settlement.

Leading Creek comes into Tygarts Valley River about one mile below Elkins. Reaching this settlement it appears that the Indians divided into ~~##~~ and crept one by one to the cabins of the settlers. It looks like they separated one evening, and gave twenty-four hours for the warriors to appear at the appointed places and struck about dusk the next evening.

Peter Shaver lived at the mouth of Shavers Run. He had but recently returned from the war. His family consisted of three sons and his wife, and an old man, probable his wife's father. They had spent the day visiting and towards night went home. Peter Shaver took a near way. His wife and the old man rode the same horse. When near home the body of Peter Shaver was seen lying across the path. His wife put her hand to her face to hide the sight and exclaimed that her husband had been killed. The old man tried to quiet her by saying that it was log across the path, but it was soon seen that he had been killed and scalped a few minutes before. The rest of the family escaped to a neighbors and from there fled the country.

Within a few months Mrs Shaver gave birth to a child, a son, and on his face was a large red birth-mark like the mark of a hand. It was always attributed to the presence of his mother at the tragic finding of her husband dead and scalped. This son was Francis Shaver, prominent in the country life of his times, the great grandfather of Clem Shaver.

The details of the killing in Tygarts Valley are lost. But never since the plague demanded of Egypt that between dusk and dawn, one life would be required of every household, has there been anything quite like it. There was a fort at Beverly, Fort Westfall, but there were people killed that dreadful night within gunshot of its walls. Notably a Mrs Baker who refused to go to the fort on account of cooking a corn pone and other things in the cabin needing attention.

The Indian army assembled on the second night and struck out north-west to their towns in Ohio. They had made their kill. They had to get back across the Ohio river. Two men, Jonathan Buffington and Benjamin Hornback, who had escaped carried the news to Friend's Fort and Wilson's Fort. Col. Wilson raised an army immediately and went to Tygart's Valley and found it without a living settler. When we remember that three years after, Randolph County had enough inhabitants to form a county, and that the most populous part of the county was driven out in a single night, we can get a glimpse of the extent of the raid upon it by the Indians.

last as long as these waters run or these hills endure.

But given a start, I was able to identify the pioneer and see in my mind's eye his tragic life in these mountains.

Shavers Mountain is a continuation of Back Allegheny Mountain to the north. North of the Staunton and Parkersburg Turnpike, it is Shavers Mountain. It is the mountain to the west in sight from the train windows between Durbin and Glady. At Glady it is the mountain that the tunnel runs through. And it is one of the biggest, most upstanding of all the mountains.

Shavers Mountain walls in Shavers Fork of Cheat on the east side, looking across at Cheat Mountain on the other side of that stream.

Shavers Run is a sizable stream starting in Cheat Mountain and flowing west to Tygarts Valley River coming into the river at Valley Bend. The tourist will be able to identify this run by noting that it comes in north of the large town of Mill Creek, just opposite to where a road turns to the left to the Rich Mountain side. It was on this run that Peter Shaver settled about the year 1772, and built a homestead, and where he was killed by the Indians in April, 1781. He had been an Indian ranger for years during the Revolutionary War, and was killed in front of his house in the last year of the war, and in the very last raid of Indians that far east.

Withers, the authority, leaves out more names of victims than he records. This is explained by the fact that Withers wrote that work from the great mass of material accumulated by William Macker and William Powers, two Indian fighters, who set down dates and names and occurrences. Withers as a college graduate and lawyer of Clarksburg undertook the contract of making a book from this material for Joseph Israel, printer, and it is said that failure to pay him, caused Withers to bring the work to as hasty a conclusion as might be compatible with producing a book that had some appearance of being finished.

Withers says of the Tygarts Valley massacre of 1781, in effect that the Roneys, Daughertys, Hornbecks, Buffington and many others were killed. The populous country between Huttonsville and Elkins was ravaged. The houses nearly all burned. And all the inhabitants gone, being either killed, captured, or driven east over the mountains. Being the most eastern of the north-western settlements and being driven east would account for failure to list the names of the killed. The Indian rangers out of Clarksburg could not tell who was killed or who was fleeing for safety. All that they knew was that the rich valley was deserted. There is enough evidence however to lead one to believe that this was the greatest massacre of West Virginia, not excepting Clendenin's and Fort Seybert.

A large body of Indians appeared in the country in April, 1781, earlier than they were expected. The winter months were considered safe from them and the pioneers lived in their clearings, thinking to go into the stockades a few weeks later.

There were important settlements in the Cheat River country in Tucker County. Like all the other pioneers on the Western Waters they had improved valuable land without title papers, and the Virginia legislature had passed a law providing for validating all claims to land made good by actual settlement prior to January 1, 1778. A strong party of farmers had gone

have built up in a few generations the greatest nation that the world has ever seen. As soon as the pioneer breed had time to breathe, efforts were made to record the heroic life and times of the conquerors of the wilderness. Much was lost by neglect, and though the day is somewhat late, yet we are in a better position to honor their memories by recounting their exploits, than any generation that will come after us.

The immigrant, Paul Shaver, had a son Paul Shaver, born on the South Branch of the Potomac in the year 1759. This has been denied, and other branches of the Shaver family have tried to claim him, but there is not the slightest doubt in my mind but that he is the Paul Shaver of Paul Shaver's Run, Pendleton County. He made his declaration for a pension in the year 1832 in Lewis County. He was in the army that marched on Vincennes, in 1779, ~~###~~ under Col. G. R. Clark. For a full and sympathetic account of this great campaign, see Winslow Churchill's, The Crossing.

Paul Shaver first served in 1776, at the age of seventeen under ~~##~~ Jacob Warwick. That whole season he watched the war road in Randolph County. During that year he detected Indians on three different occasions.

In the year 1777, he served as a ranger under Captain Stuart, of Greenbrier County, first at West's Fort, at Jane Lew, then at Westfall's Fort, at Beverly, and then at ~~####~~ Warwick's Fort, at Green Bank. He was discharged in November.

In the spring of 1778, he migrated to Kentucky where ~~#####~~ Louisville now stands. Was drafted in July of that year to go on a tour of three months into Illinois County under Captain Kincaid, under G. R. Clark. Did not succeed in bringing the Indians to a fight.

In the winter of 1778 or spring of 1779, Col. Clark again conceived the notion of marching into the Illinois county as it was then called, and Paul Shaver volunteered for six months. He was at the taking Kaskaskias and was left there with his old commander Captain Andrew Kincaid. He volunteered and in all spent eighteen months on this campaign, and returned with a bad wound in his leg received at Andersonstown, which had not yet healed, though more than fifty years after.

There is another record of this same Paul Shaver serving as a ranger and spy in the year 1770, the year of first settlement in Tygarts Valley. I think this must have been 1772. It has been questioned on account of the youth of Paul Shaver. But whether he was 11 years old, or 13 years old, I do not consider that young for that kind of service in pioneer times. Ask the first boy scout that you meet.

This is about all the space I have to knit together the widely scattered strands of the story of Shavers Fork. There is a tremendous possibilities in the story. But I want to mention one other thing, to put the historians on the trail:

The fact that the Indians destroyed the Tygarts Valley settlements as early in the year as April, and that they had come from the upper Ohio country, caused suspicion to be directed against the ~~#####~~ Moravian Indians. These were the Indians who had embraced Christianity and who trying to live at peace with both whites and reds received nothing but hostility from both, and commencing with the Tygarts Valley massacre events led up by successive stages to a raid on them, and an execution of every one of these Indians as the result of a hasty military trial, in the spring of 1732.

Wilson's company knowing that the Indians had prisoners, followed them ~~###~~ for two days. It would appear that the Indians tried to pass out through the woods lying between Clarksburg and Jane Lew, the latter place then known as West's Fort on West Fork river. Wilson not coming up with them at the end of the second day a council of war was held, and it was suggested to the ~~###~~ company that with the Indians out in such numbers, that their own homes were not protected and that the men ~~###~~ would better go home and man the forts. This was decided upon by a majority of the company.

On that same night, a spies reported to Nutter's Fort, that the Indians were camped at the mouth of Indian Creek on West Fork. When the men who were fired upon at Valley River reported the Indians ~~###~~ to the Clarksburg forts, and spies were immediately sent out and it was the result of their work that located them at the Mouth of Indian Creek. Col. Lowther, in command of Nutter's Fort took a company of men and came to the place in the nighttime and hid in a ravine until morning. At the break of day, Mrs Alexander Roney, a prisoner, rose and replenished the ~~###~~ camp fire, and just at that moment the white men fired on the sleeping camp, killing seven Indians and one prisoner, young Roney, a son of ~~###~~ Alexander Roney, who had been killed two nights before.

As I read it, the party of Indians found must have been but a part of the Indian army. The attacking party numbered seventeen men from Nutter's Fort and the booty secured and sold netted about seventy dollars each.

Captain Bull a noted Indian chief was killed at that time. He was the chief whose family was massacred by the whites on the waters of Little Kanawha ~~###~~ near where the present ~~###~~ village of Bulltown stands in Braxton County. Jesse Hughes, the great Indian fighter was present. He found Captain Bull still alive, and recognized him. Hughes seized Captain Bull and dragged him through the camp fire and killed him. He then skinned the dead chief for material to restore his moccasins and when he got back to the fort threw the moccasins into his mother's lap, ~~###~~ for her to see the way in which they were mended.

The Glen Shaver line of descent on the Shaver side is as follows:

Paul Shaver settled in Augusta County sometime before the formation of that county and died on South Branch of the Potomac, in 1772, owning a tract of land at the mouth of what was then called Paul Shaver's Run. He had four sons: George, John, Peter, and Paul.

Peter Shaver married Sarah Riffle. He served as an Indian ranger and spy in the Revolution. Was killed in April, 1781, on the occasion of the Tygarts Valley massacre, invasion of Shawnee and Delaware. Sons: John, James, Jacob, and Francis. Francis Shaver married Phoebe Hall. Eleven children: Susanna, Sarah, John, James, Jacob, Ezekiah, Francis Riffle, George W., Mary Eleanor, and Edward.

James Shaver married Elizabeth Campbell. Eight children, one of whom was John Riffle Shaver. ~~Sarah Cunningham~~
John Riffle Shaver married ~~Elizabeth Campbell~~, eight children, the eldest being Hon. C. L. Shaver, of Fairmont.

The story of the Shaver family is well knit into the history of the nation and state. Steadfast and true are the qualities of such families who have kept the homefires burning and who

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The circumstances of the killing of Peter Shaver by the Shawnee Indians are about as follows Viz,. Just after his service in the militia expired he was at home and his wife himself, his father and old man, went a short distance away on an errand or to do some work. In the evening the old

man Paul and the young wife of Peter started back to the cabin both riding one horse as was the custom. Peter, himself afoot took a shortcut to the cabin and arrived first by a few minutes. When Paul and Peter's wife came riding up she noticed something lying in the path near the front door and putting her hand to her face exclaimed Peter is killed and the old man tried to quiet her by saying it is a log rolled into the path but when they came a little closer the truth was seen. Peter had been scalped but few minutes before and upon ascertaining this they fled on horseback to some distant neighbors. I am not sure but think one child was also killed and three not found were saved and three or four months after FRANCIS who was my ancestor, was born with the mark of his mother's hand on his face, as the story goes-a large birth mark. This of course attributed then as very frequently now to the fright she got at the sight of her husband lying dead in the path. She and his father Paul of course barely escaped as Peter had taken the nearer route only few minutes ahead of them.

All this occurred at the mouth of Shaver Run, a little brook that comes down out of ~~SHAWNEE MOUNTAIN~~ Shaver Mountain near Beverly or Huttonsville but across the river, Valley River.

It will be noticed that George, the eldest son of ~~SHAWNEE MOUNTAIN~~

Paul, as heir apparent joined in deed with his mother conveying land in this section and that the other brothers did not join as they did not at that time inherit along with the eldest son.

Clem Shaver s Branch of Shaver Family

Tracing backward it runs Clem Shaver son of John Riffle Shaver son of James Shaver son of Francis Shaver son of Peter Shaver son of Paul Shaver who originally settled in Augusta County in about 1725.

Paul Shaver b. ? settled about 1725 on head of So. Branch then to Cheat. Act of Virginia Assmbl granted him 7 pounds and 8 shillings for services in Virginia Militia during French and Indian War.

He had four sons, **GEORGE**, heir apparent who joined as such with his mother in conveying lands on Cheat, **JOHN** ~~his son~~ **PETER** (my ancestor) and **PAUL**. There may have been others but we have no record.

Peter Shaver, ~~his son~~ married Sarah Riffle, (from whom my father takes his middle name). He was said to have served as Indian Scout as did some of his brothers during the Revolution and was himself killed by a band of Shawnee Indians right at the close of the Revolution.

He had four sons, **JOHN**, who married Polly Nestor (and for whom my father was named) **JAMES** (for whom my grandfather was named) **JACOB** (who married Rachel Davis and moved to Kanawha and there by error spelled his name with an f) and **FRANCIS** my ancestor.

Francis Shaver, b about 1781 or 1782 and married Phoebe Hall 1810 or 1811. To them were born beginning with the first in Sept 1811 eleven children, Susanna, Sarah, John, James, Jacob, Hezekiah, Francis Riffle, George W, Mary Eleanor and Edward. Of these **JAMES** was my grandfather.

James Shaver b 1818 and married Elizabeth Campbell and to them were born 8 children and one being **JOHN RIFFLE SHAVER**, my father.

JOHN RIFFLE SHAVER b 1841 and married Sarah Cunningham in 1866 and to them were born also 8 children and the eldest being **CLEM SHAVER**.

John Riffle Shaver served in the 20th Virginia Cavalry, Confederate Army under General Early.

P.S. - This shows we are indigenoues to the soil and that it has been Shaver as now in almost the same spot for just two hundred years.

September 10, 1772. Paul Shaver's estate appraised by Francis Wire, (McGuire) Joseph Crouch, Conrad Good. Chalkley, Vol. 3. P. 128.

Morton's History of Pendleton County, Page 171, states that Shaver (Paul) settled on Mallow's Run in 1761. The same volume gives on page 289 a tentative genealogy of Paul Shaver's descendants. This is incorrect. Compare with the Wanstaff family on page 325 and the data in the case given below.

Warnsturff vs. Warnsturff---Bill, 1818, by Jacob Warnsturff, James Rose and Catherine, his wife, late Warnsturff; William Dunsmore and Molly, his wife, late Warnsturff, only children of Lewis Warnsturff, deceased of Pendleton County, who died, intestate, 1801, leaving widow Mary and above children, infants. Jacob was eight years old. Mary was sister of Philip Fisher and in two years married Christopher Shaver of Greengrier. Chalkley, Vol. 2, P. 223.

Christopher Shaver, son of Paul, married the widow of Lewis Wanstaff (Warnsturff) not the daughter, Mary. From the case above the names of the children are Jacob, Catherine, (Rose) and Molly (Dunsmore). This does not tally with Morton, Page 325.

Elizabeth Shaver, widow, (of Paul?) was married December 20, 1787, to Andrew Dorsets. Chalkley, Vol. 2, P. 304.

Morton's list of Paul's children does not include George, the eldest. See his deed above. This may be the same George who was Lieutenant in the Augusta County militia. A certificate of September 1st 1791, signed by him and Andrew Lewis Kneigh, was recorded. Chalkley, Vol. 1, P. 422.

John Shaver, very probably, the son of Paul, was a private in Col. John Gibson's Detachment who served in the Western Department from January 1, 1780, to December 6, 1781, when Brigadier General William Irvine took the command. Shaver was discharged March 13, 1780. See Saffell, Records of Revolution. P. 281.

The Paul Shaver mentioned in the report of this department by Mr. Lewis is a different man. He was living in Lewis County and received a pension under act of Congress of June 7, 1832. This name is not a misprint for Shaver, and is correct. Mr. Lewis copied the list from the Report of the Secretary of War for 1835, concerning pensions. I find nothing about him in Haymond's History of Harrison County, or Smith's History of Lewis County. There were many families of Shaver or Shafer in the Cheat Valley, especially in Preston and Tucker Counties. This Paul is probably one of them. Morton gives some material on the family in his history of Preston. Bosworth's History of Randolph gives the name of Shaver in a few places.

Here are a few:

Jacob Shaver married Rachel Davis in 1796.
John Shaver married Polly Nestor, daughter of
Jacob Nestor, 1813.

B.61.

B-65

SHAVER FAMILY.

The following notes on the Shaver Family of Pendleton County may not be correct in all details.

PAUL SHAVER:

In a list of delinquents for 1755, the name of Paul Shaver occurs. To the name was added "no estate," probably because of his youth and absence on military duty. Chalkley's Abstracts of Records of Augusta County, Vol. 2, P. 416.

On August 22, 1760, his name was added to tithables, Vol. 1. P. 87.

Paul Shaver was among those paid by Act of the Assembly at Williamsburg, September 14, 1758, for being in the militia of Augusta County. He drew 7 pounds and 8 shillings. Henning's Statutes. Vol. 7, P. 184.

On November 11, 1758, Paul Shaver was one of the appraisers of the estate of Michael Freez (Frise). Chalkley, Vol. 3, P. 50.

Powl Shaver mentioned in the settlement of Peter Moser's estate by Michael Mallow; allowed May 19, 1761; will made June 28, 1758. Chalkley, V. 3, P. 62.

Paul Shaver mentioned in settlement of estate of Jacob Sivers, August 19, 1761. Chalkley, V. 3, P. 65.

On March 21, 1765, he was named as one of three to view a road on North Mill Creek from the Upper Tract to the county line below Jacob Peterson. Chalkley, Vol. 1. P. 119.

Entry in deed book date of August 25, 1769, says Col. Abraham Smith's plantation at South Branch was near Paul Shaver's. Chalkley Vol. 3, P. 113.

On June 20, 1770, deed of Abraham Smith to James Fowler of Loudon County; 100 pounds; 142 acres on a branch of South Branch of Potowmack called Licking Creek, above Paul Shaver's Run. Delivered James Fowler, August 10, 1771. Chalkley, Vol. 3, P. 501.

Admn. of Paul Shaver granted to widow Elizabeth, August 18, 1772. Chalkley, Vol. 1. P. 167.

August 18, 1772, Elizabeth Shaver's bond (with Jacob Harper, Peter Veneman) as administratrix of Paul Shaver. Chalkley, Vol. 3, P. 124.

Deed recorded August 18, 1772. George (X) Shaver, eldest son and heir apparent of Paul Shaver, deceased, and Elizabeth (X) Shaver, widow of Paul, to Michael Mallow, 200 acres lately the property of Paul on Licking Creek, a branch of South Branch of Potowmack, opposite Shelton's land. Chalkley, Vol. 3, P. 523.

Elizabeth Shaver owned property, 1785. B-85.
 Peter Shavers, George Shavers, B-85
 George Shavers lands on Cheat--Settlement 1776. B-94
 Jabob Shaver, conveyed 130 acres of land on
 King's Run to Wm. Biggs, 1787-92. B-98
 Jacob Shaver to Wm. Biggs 130 acres on Trout Run B-98
 197 acres Elizabeth Shaver to Boston Stalnaker. B-98.

The copy of Strickler I mention has arrived and the family mentioned therein is later one tracing to Henry Shaver who married Susan Strickler, in 1812, and settled near Salem, Virginia.

Then there is another family headed by Phillip and two brothers, said to have come from Austria before the Revolution and settled in New York. Some of these later went to Virginia.

Then still another that unquestionably did come from Holland and settled on Mohawk River, New York State, 1767, and headed by one Bartholomew Shaver and had sons, John, Joseph, Henry, Herman, Frederick and George, and daughter, Catherine. The Mohawk section had great many Shavers of pure Dutch descent that came there early and their descendants scattered over much country, Virginia, included. They always spelled the name Shaver. Most, if not all the others, began with the "f" instead of "v" and the strictly German was Schaeffer. The family or families that crossed the mountains from the Valley seemingly had little or no connection or relationship with those in Western Pennsylvania and those in Preston and Tucker Counties, this State.

There is another family of Shavers in Marion County who claim to trace to some Valley ancestor named Balsor Shaver as nearly as can learn and inclined to believe he is some family at very early period.

There is only presumption that the Paul Shaver who got pension in Lewis County, 1833, under the Virginia Act, as Indian Scout in Revolution is the ~~same~~ same Paul, son of the original settle. But the name, the time, and the fact that we know that more than one son did serve makes it altogether likely he is the same.

Christopher Shaver who married Mary Warnsturff nee Fisher is son of Paul according to Horton in his History of Pendleton (See two notes herein) but our family history does not credit such a son but there may have been one or even more as Jacob gave this information in his 88th year and said he could not recall much of the history.